



Health Care for the Homeless

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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National Statistics for General Population and Homeless Population for Selected Items from PIN 2003 – 01

Barriers and Access to Care

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Policy Research Associates, Inc. • 345 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054
Under contract to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care

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for Selected Items from PIN 2003 – 01**

Barriers and Access to Care

1b.) Length of waiting time for public housing and Section 8 certificates:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 1999 report, *Waiting In Vain: An Update On America's Housing Crisis*, found that time people spent on waiting lists for HUD-assisted housing "increased substantially between 1996 and 1998." For the largest public housing authorities, a family's average time on a waiting list rose from 22 to 33 months from 1996 to 1998 - a 50 percent increase. The waiting period is even longer in some large cities - eight years in New York City; six years in Oakland, CA; and five years in Washington, DC, and Cleveland. The average waiting period for a Section 8 rental assistance voucher rose from 26 months to 28 months between 1996 and 1998. The waiting period for the vouchers, which are used for families in need to rent privately owned apartments, is now 10 years in Los Angeles and Newark; eight years in New York City, seven years in Houston; and five years in Memphis and Chicago.

Local information can be found from state and local Housing Authorities, or HUD offices at 1-800-998-9999 or www.hud.gov.

1c.) Percentage of population 5 years or older who speak a language other than English at home. Below are statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, found online at: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/meta/long_101621.htm

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	Number	Percent
Population 5 years and over	262,375,152	100.0
English only	215,423,557	82.1
Language other than English	46,951,595	17.9
Speak English less than "very well"	21,320,407	8.1
Spanish	28,101,052	10.7
Speak English less than "very well"	13,751,256	5.2
Other Indo-European languages	10,017,989	3.8
Speak English less than "very well"	3,390,301	1.3
Asian and Pacific Island languages	6,960,065	2.7
Speak English less than "very well"	3,590,024	1.4

For further information, contact Rosalind Bruno, U.S. Census Bureau, Education and Social Stratification Branch, Population Division, (301)763-2464 or rbruno@census.gov. Local information can also be located at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov>

1e.) Percentage of Individuals Below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Index:

According to the 2001 Census Bureau/Bureau of Labor Statistics' Annual Demographic Supplement to the Current Population Survey, 32,907 individuals in their sample (included all sexes/races) lived below the poverty level. In 2001, it was estimated that 32.9 million (or 11.7%) lived below the poverty thresholds. Additional information may be located at:

- <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/p60-219.pdf>
- http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032002/pov/new03_002.htm

For further information, contact Housing and Household Economic Statistics Information Staff, (301)763-3242 or hhes-info@census.gov

1f.) **Life Expectancy Rate:**

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2000, the life expectancy at birth for all Americans was 76.9. More information can be located at:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/lifexpec.htm>

1g.) **Percentage of Uninsured Individuals:**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people with health insurance rose by 1.2 million between 2000 and 2001, to 240.9 million, but at the same time the number of uninsured rose by 1.4 million, an estimated total of 41.2 million uninsured in 2001. Meanwhile, an estimated 14.6 percent of the population had no health insurance coverage during all of 2001, up from 14.2 percent in 2000.

For further information, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthin01.html> or contact Housing and Household Economic Statistics Information Staff at (301)763-3242 or hhes-info@census.gov

1h.) **Unemployment rate:**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Unemployment rate was 5.7% in October 2002. More information is available at:

- <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>

2.) **Health Disparity Factors:**

3a. **Cancer rate** - According to the American Cancer Society, there were 1,284,900 cancer cases in 2002. For more information, see <http://www.cancer.org> or call 1-800-ACS-2345.

Local information can also be found online at:

<http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/CancerFacts&Figures2002TM.pdf>, and http://www.cancer.org/docroot/STT/STT_2.asp, and <http://www.naaccr.org/Stats/index.html>

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 46% of people who are homeless report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>. Additional information on cancer in the homeless population can be found in the paper *Cancer Risk Behaviors and Screening Rates Among Homeless Adults in Los Angeles County*, which appeared in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* 11 (5): 431-438, 2002.

3b. **Low birthweight rate** - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2000, 7.6% of all infants were born low birthweight. For more information, see:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_05.pdf or call (301) 458-4636.

Homeless: In a study done in 2000 by Dr. Lillian Gelberg, almost 17 percent of homeless women had low birthweight babies (less than 5.5 pounds), and 19 percent had preterm births (before 37 weeks' gestation) compared with the national average of 6 percent and 10 percent, respectively. For more information, see: <http://www.ahcpr.gov/research/apr01/401RA23.htm>.

3c. Infant mortality rate - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2000, the infant mortality rate was 6.9 per 1,000 live births. For more information, see: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_12.pdf, <http://www.ahcpr.gov/research/apr01/401RA23.htm>, <http://www.apha.org/legislative/policy/PDF/84Policy.pdf> or call (301) 458-4636.

3d. Rate of exposure - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, From 1979 –1999, excessive heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States. During 1979-1998, a total of 13,970 deaths were attributed to hypothermia. Contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health, 1-888-232-6789; NCEHinfo@cdc.gov, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/asthma/default.htm>

3e. Asthma rate - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asthma affected 10 million adults and as many as 5 million children in 2000. Contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health: 1-888-232-6789; NCEHinfo@cdc.gov, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/asthma/default.htm>

Homeless: According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 38% of homeless children in New York City's shelter system have asthma (an asthma rate four times that for all New York City children and the highest prevalence rate of any child population in the United States). See: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/health.html> , or <http://www.childrenshealthfund.org/hshc4.html> for more information.

3f. Diabetes rate - According to the American Diabetes Association, 17.0 million people (6.2% of the population) have diabetes. Contact the American Diabetes Association: 1-800-342-2383, www.diabetes.org.

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 46% of people who are homeless report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>. According to the October 1999 issue of *Healing Hands* by the HCH Clinicians network, reliable statistics on diabetes are not available for the homeless population, but diabetes is frequently seen among poor and homeless people. See: http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/1999/hh.10_99.pdf or call (615)226-2292.

3g. Nutrition rate - According to the World Health Organization, malnutrition affects close to 800 million people – 20% of all people in the developing world. According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, requests for emergency food assistance climbed an average of 23 percent in 2001. According to a United States Department of Agriculture report released in March 2000, 33 million Americans are food insecure. This means that they are either hungry or unsure of where their next meal will come from. In 2001 America's Second Harvest served 23.3 million of these hungry people through emergency feeding programs alone, a 9% increase since 1997. Additional information may be located at:

- <http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/hungersurvey/2001/hungersurvey2001.pdf>
- <http://www.who.int/nut/index.htm>
- <http://www.secondharvest.org/>

3h. Coronary heart disease rate - In a 2002 report by the American Heart Association, 61,800,000 Americans have one or more types of cardiovascular disease, 12,600,000 have coronary heart disease. For more information, see: <http://www.americanheart.org>, or call 1-800-242-8721.

3i. Rate of occupational and environmental hazard exposures - According to The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), each day, an average of 9,000 U.S. workers sustain disabling injuries on the job, 16 workers die from an injury sustained at work, and 137 workers die from work-related diseases. For more information, contact 1-800-35-NIOSH, http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/cntc_ni1.html and National Center for Environmental Health, 1-888-232-6789, NCEHinfo@cdc.gov, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh>

3j. Skin disorders rate - According to the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, nearly 17 million people in the United States have acne, making it the most common skin disease, and more than 15 million people in the United States have symptoms of atopic dermatitis (eczema). According to the National Center for Health Statistics nearly 8.2 million cases of dermatitis were reported in 1996, and approximately 4.9 million cases of acne were reported in 1996. For more information on skin disorders, see: <http://www.niams.nih.gov> or <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/skin.htm>

Homeless: Limited information on skin disorders in the homeless population can be found in the paper *Prevalence of Skin Disease in a Cohort of Shelter-Based Homeless Men*, which appeared in Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, August (41): 197-222, 1999.

3k. Dental disease rate - According to the 2000 report "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General" most adults show signs of periodontal or gingival diseases. Severe periodontal disease (measured as 6 millimeters of periodontal attachment loss) affects about 14 percent of adults aged 45 to 54. For more information, contact the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health at 301/496-4261 or <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/sgf/sgrohweb/home.htm#preface>

Homeless: Research has found that people who are homeless are 12 times more likely than people with housing to have dental problems, as described in the winter 2001 issue of HRSA/BPHC's publication, *Opening Doors*. Additionally, people who are homeless experience more severe dental conditions than other populations, and confront more barriers to dental care. See: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/CCA/HomelessOral.htm>

3l. Teen pregnancy rate - According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2000 the Number of Live Births Annually (15-19 Year Olds) was 468,990, the Birth Rate (15-19 Year Olds) was 48.5 live births per 1,000 population. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/teenbrth.htm> or http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_05.pdf

3m. Late entry into prenatal care - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2000, 3.9% of mothers received late or no prenatal care. For more information, see: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_05.pdf, <http://www.ahcpr.gov/research/apr01/401RA23.htm>, <http://www.apha.org/legislative/policy/PDF/84Policy.pdf> or call (301) 458-4636.

3n. Obesity rate - Results from the 1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), using measured heights and weights, indicate that an estimated 64 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/obese/obse99.htm>

3o. Depression rate - According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in any given 1-year period, 9.5 percent of the population, or about 18.8 million American adults, suffer from

a depressive illness. For more information, contact (301) 443-4513 or <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/depressionmenu.cfm>

3p. **Suicide rate** - According to the National Institute of Mental Health, completed suicides in the U.S. in 1999 numbered 29,199, and was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States. For more information, contact (301) 443-4513 or <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suifact.htm>

3q. **Hypertension rate** - According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2000, there were 10,398,000 million doctor's office visits for hypertension with 23,761 deaths annually. Statistics from 1988-94 indicate hypertension among 23 percent of Americans ages 20-74. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/hypertens.htm>

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 46% of people who are homeless report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>. According to the April 2001 issue of *Healing Hands* by the HCH Clinicians network, hypertension affects nearly one in four adult Americans over age 20. Like most chronic diseases, hypertension is even more common among people who are homeless. HCH Clients are reported to be at least twice as likely to have this disorder as domiciled patients. See: <http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/2001/April2001HealingHands.pdf> or call (615)226-2292.

3r. **HIV/AIDS/STDS rate** - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics Report, in 2000 there were 19,094 cases, and 14,478 deaths annually from HIV/AIDS. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report "Health, United States: 2002", reported cases of Syphilis numbered 31,575; reported cases of Chlamydia numbered 702,093; and reported cases of Gonorrhea numbered 358,995. For more information, see:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus02.pdf>
- http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr50/nvsr50_15.pdf

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 3% of people who are homeless report having HIV/AIDS; 26% report acute health problems other than HIV/AIDS such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, or sexually transmitted diseases; and 46% report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>. According to the September 1998 issue of *Healing Hands* by the HCH Clinicians network, studies indicate the prevalence of HIV among people who are homeless is between 3-20%, with some subgroups having much higher burdens of disease. See: http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/1998/hh.09_98.pdf or call (615)226-2292.

3s. **Unintentional injury rate** - According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, in 2000, unintentional injury deaths numbered 97,900. In 2001, unintentional nonfatal injuries numbered 27,566,102. For more information, contact: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at (770) 488-1506, OHCINFO@cdc.gov, or <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc>.

3t. **Percent of elderly** - According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report "Health, United States: 2002", the total number of elderly 65 and over is 34,992, or 12.4% of the population. For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus02.pdf>

Homeless: According to The Committee to End Elder Homelessness, a Massachusetts survey conducted in 2000 revealed that the number of elders who are homeless continues to rise at an alarming rate. 1,228 elders over the age of 50 were found homeless - a 17% increase from 1997. For more information, see <http://www.cceh.org/index.asp>, <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/elderly.html> or contact (617) 369-1550.

3u. **Substance abuse rate** - According to the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), an estimated 16.6 million Americans aged 12 or older in 2001 were classified with dependence on or abuse of either alcohol or illicit drugs (7.3 percent of the total population). Of these, 2.4 million were classified with dependence on or abuse of both alcohol and illicit drugs, 3.2 million were dependent on or abused illicit drugs but not alcohol, and 11.0 million were dependent on or abused alcohol but not illicit drugs. For more information, see: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda/2k1nhsda/vol1/toc.htm>

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 38% of people who are homeless report alcohol use problems and 26% report other drug use problems. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>

3v. **ADD/ADHD rate** - According to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and the National Institute of Mental Health, ADD/ADHD affects 3 to 5 percent of all children. For more information, see:

- <http://www.nami.org/helpline/adhd.htm>
- <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suifact.htm>

3w. **Rate of respiratory infection** - According to the American Lung Association report "[Morbidity and Mortality: Pneumonia, Influenza and Acute Respiratory Conditions 2002](#)", in 1996, the rate of selected acute respiratory conditions was 78.9%. For more information, see:

- http://www.lungusa.org/data/pi/PI_1.pdf or call 1-800-LUNG-USA.

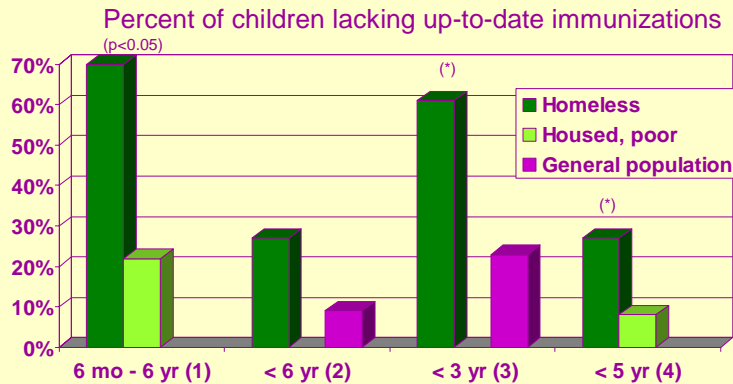
Homeless: National and local tuberculosis statistics are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/surv/surv2001/pdf/t26.pdf>. For more information on tuberculosis in the homeless population, see the January 1999 issue of *Healing Hands* by the HCH Clinicians network, online at: http://www.nhchc.org/Network/HealingHands/1999/hh.01_99.pdf or call (615)226-2292.

3x. **Immunization rate** - The following statistics are according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report "Health, United States: 2002": Vaccinations of children 19-35 months of age for selected diseases in 2000: Receiving Combined Series: 76%; Vaccinated Against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis: 82%; Vaccinated Against Polio: 90%; Vaccinated Against Measles: 91%; Vaccinated Against Haemophilus: 93%; Vaccinated Against Hepatitis B: 90%. For more information, see:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/01cht.pdf>
- <http://www.nisabt.org/>

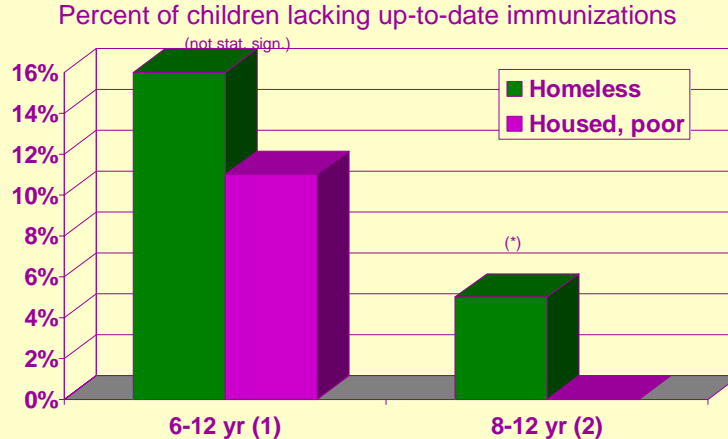
Homeless: According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, a recent study of the health status of homeless children in New York City found that 61% of homeless children had not received their proper immunizations (compared to 23% of all New York City two-year-olds). See <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/health.html>. Below are statistics from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, online at: <http://www.nhchc.org/Children/>

Immunization delay is common, particularly in young children



1. Fierman AH et al. Status of Immunization and Iron Nutrition in New York City Homeless Children. *Clinical Pediatrics* 32:151-155 (1993).
 2. Miller DS et al. Children in Sheltered Homeless Families: Reported Health Status and Use of Health Services. *Pediatrics* 81: 668-673 (1988).
 3. The Children's Health Fund. Still in Crisis: The health status of New York City's homeless children. 1999.
 4. Alperstein G et al. Health Problems of Homeless Children in New York City. *AJPH* 78:1232-1233 (1988).
- *No statistical comparison reported.

Immunization delay in school-aged children



1. Berti LC et al. Comparison of Health Status of Children Using a School-Based Health Center for Comprehensive Care. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* 15:244-250 (2001).
 2. Menke EM & Wagner JD. A Comparative Study of Homeless, Previously Homeless, and Never Homeless School-Aged Children's Health. *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing* 20: 153-173 (1997).
- * no statistical comparison reported

3y. **Rate of school absenteeism** - According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, [U.S. Dept. of Education](http://www.ed.gov), more than half of students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades missed 1 or more days of school in a 4-week period in spring 2000 due to illness, skipping school, or other reasons. For more information, see: <http://nces.ed.gov> or call (202) 502-7300.

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, at least one fifth of children who are homeless do not attend school and more than one fourth have attended three or more schools in a year. For more information, see:

- <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>
- <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/annualreport2001/287.html>

3z. **Percent of minority populations** - Below are statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, found online at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t1.html>.

Subject	Number	Percent of total population
RACE		
Total population	281 421 906	100.0
One race	274 595 678	97.6
White	211 460 626	75.1
Black or African American	34 658 190	12.3
American Indian / Alaska Native	2 475 956	0.9
Asian	10 242 998	3.6
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	398 835	0.1
Some other race	15 359 073	5.5
Two or more races	6 826 228	2.4
HISPANIC/LATINO AND RACE		
Total population	281 421 906	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	35 305 818	12.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	246 116 088	87.5
One race	241 513 942	85.8
White	194 552 774	69.1
Black or African American	33 947 837	12.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	2 068 883	0.7
Asian	10 123 169	3.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	353 509	0.1
Some other race	467 770	0.2
Two or more races	4 602 146	1.6

For more information, contact: Campbell Gibson, U.S. Census Bureau, (301)763-2442, campbell.j.gibson@census.gov, or Statistical Information Staff, (301)763-2422, pop@census.gov

Homeless: Racial and ethnic minorities, particularly African Americans, are overrepresented among people who are homeless. According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 41% are non-Hispanic whites (compared to 76% of the general population), 40% are African Americans (compared to 11% of the general population), 11% are Hispanic (compared to 9% of the general population), and 8% are Native American (compared to 1% of the general population). For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts>

3aa. **Rate of serious mental illness** - According to the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), in 2001, approximately 15 million Americans aged 18 or older were estimated to have a serious mental illness (SMI) during the past year. For more information, see: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda/2k1nhsda/vol1/toc.htm>

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, while only four percent of the U.S. population has serious mental illness, five to six times as

many people who are homeless (20-25%) have serious mental illness. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts> . For further information on serious mental illness, see:

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill www.nami.org
- The National Mental Health Association www.nmha.org
- Knowledge Exchange Network www.mentalhealth.org
- National Institute of Mental Health www.nimh.nih.gov

For more information, contact: Campbell Gibson, U.S. Census Bureau, (301)763-2442, campbell.j.gibson@census.gov, or Statistical Information Staff, (301)763-2422, pop@census.gov

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3aa. **Rate of serious mental illness** - According to the 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA), in 2001, approximately 15 million Americans aged 18 or older were estimated to have a serious mental illness (SMI) during the past year. For more information, see: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda/2k1nhsda/vol1/toc.htm>

Homeless: According to the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, while only four percent of the U.S. population has serious mental illness, five to six times as many people who are homeless (20-25%) have serious mental illness. For more information, see: <http://www.nrchmi.com/facts> . For further information on serious mental illness, see:

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill www.nami.org
- The National Mental Health Association www.nmha.org
- Knowledge Exchange Network www.mentalhealth.org
- National Institute of Mental Health www.nimh.nih.gov

** There is limited national data on certain aspects of the homeless population. Current statistics are included where available.*